



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

April 17, 2019

Mackenzie Farkus  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 70343  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516  
Via email: [70343-94121730@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:70343-94121730@requests.muckrock.com)

Dear Mr. Farkus:

This letter is regarding to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of March 11, 2019, assigned #HQ-REF-19-00011, for:

Materials from 2016 onward related to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and its subsequent health effects on those currently or formerly stationed at Camp Lejeune. Potential documents include but are not limited to correspondence containing the keywords “illness,” “water contamination,” and “disability benefits,” reports concerning levels of current water contamination at Camp Lejeune, and brochures/pamphlets/booklets given to those impacted by Camp Lejeune’s water contamination.

On April 10, 2019, you submitted the following clarification of your request:

To narrow down my request, I am looking for emails from 2016 onward related to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and its subsequent health effects on those currently or formerly stationed at Camp Lejeune. Please conduct this search using the keywords “cancer,” “illness,” “water contamination,” “Janey Ensminger Act,” “Ensminger Act,” and “disability benefits.”

This letter is to notify you that your request remains overly broad and to seek your clarification regarding the subject matter of the records you seek. The FOIA allows the public to request access to “reasonably described” existing agency records (subject to any applicable FOIA exemptions to disclosure). This means you must describe the category of records you are seeking or the actual document(s), and provide sufficient details to permit a search with reasonable effort, utilizing existing indices and search tools.

Your request is related to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and its subsequent health effects on those currently or formerly stationed at Camp Lejeune. However, you provide no specifics on any individual’s medical records (or release for such medical information). If your request is not for individual medical records, please indicate what type of records (which are not available on the ATSDR website) you are interested in. In your latest email, you ask a public

health organization to utilize the generic keyword “cancer” in a search for records. Such a generic search term is likely to generate voluminous documents with potentially little bearing on the information you are interested in. A search this broad cannot be accomplished with reasonable effort by staff familiar with the records.

To assist the agency to conduct a reasonable search, please provide our office with additional information, such as:

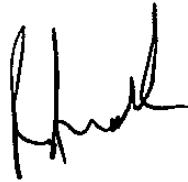
1. the specific email record you are seeking;
2. full names and accurate titles of individual(s) discussing the subject matter of your request;
3. office(s) likely to have the records requested;
4. the precise document you seek;
5. the exact information you seek;
6. if you wish to utilize key words for a search:
  - a. a narrow specific date range for records;
  - b. more specific, precise search terms;
  - c. specific non-generic key words which can be utilized in conjunction with other key words to filter the results that match your information needs.

Once again, we encourage you to contact the Department of Defense, and/or the Department of the Navy, for specific information on Camp Lejeune and/or, the Department for Veterans Affairs, for specific information on “disability benefits” related to Camp Lejeune.

At this time, your request has been placed on hold until we receive the information requested. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Emerique Magyar at 770-488-6359.

**If we do not receive a response from you by April 23, 2019, we will consider your request withdrawn and it will be closed.**

Sincerely,



Roger Andoh  
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
(770) 488-6399  
Fax: (404) 235-1852